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Comprehensive report on the United Nations Department of Safety and Security

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/259, requested the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing security and safety programmes at Headquarters and the duty stations. For past years, the Secretary-General has undertaken continuous reviews and reported on progress on issues highlighted by the General Assembly. Previous reports provided updates on the United Nations security and safety policy framework, threat and risk assessment, cooperation with host countries, cost-sharing arrangements and operations of the Department of Safety and Security in enabling United Nations-mandated activities, programmes and operations worldwide.

The United Nations has transformed its mindset from "when to leave" to "how to stay" in order to enable the delivery of its programmes worldwide. The present report provides a comprehensive review of the Department of Safety and Security, highlighting (a) the outcome of the efforts of the Organization made from June 2007 to June 2012 in enhancing a unified and strengthened United Nations security management system through the development of a comprehensive overarching policy framework for security management; (b) the specific operational and policy achievements made by the Department of Safety and Security and its partners in the United Nations security management system; and (c) the challenges to, as well as opportunities for, further enhancing the United Nations security management system

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to meet unprecedented and increasing demands for United Nations operations across a growing number of volatile duty stations. The report underlines the strides made by the Organization in achieving its strategic vision of building a modern, effective and enabling security management system to protect United Nations personnel, their eligible family members, premises and assets, with the aim of enabling United Nations mandates, programmes, operations and activities.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/259, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing security and safety programmes at Headquarters and the duty stations, and to report on the United Nations security policy framework. The General Assembly emphasized the need for a comprehensive policy framework, particularly in the areas of threat and risk assessment, cooperation with host countries, cost-sharing arrangements and operations of the Department of Safety and Security, including the effectiveness of the security level system.

2. The Secretary-General has continuously conducted comprehensive policy and operational reviews of the United Nations security management system[1] and, for past years, reported regularly to the General Assembly on the progress made in relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. These included reports on cost-sharing measures (A/62/641), the strengthened and unified security management system (A/63/605), the revised security management framework and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/65/320) and programme criticality (A/66/680).

3. The present report provides the comprehensive review of the Organization of the United Nations security management system and progress made by the Department of Safety and Security and its partners in the United Nations security management system since 2007 in establishing a modern and effective security management system for the protection and coordination of safety and security arrangements for over 150,000 United Nations personnel and their eligible family members, assets and operations in more than 180 countries, approximately 2,000 duty stations and over 5,000 United Nations premises, comprising all categories of physical structures. The work of the Department is integral to the work of the Organization and the United Nations system programmes in enabling United Nations operations worldwide, even in high-risk areas. The report highlights current and future challenges based on the present global security landscape and experience gained so far. While the report covers the period from 1 June 2007 to 30 June 2012, and while it is not intended to be a historical document, it is intended to capture the progress achieved in strengthening and enhancing a unified United Nations security management system.

Department of Safety and Security and its development

4. By its resolution 59/276 (sect. XI), in 2004 the General Assembly approved the establishment of the structure for the United Nations Department of Safety and Security with the aim of strengthening and unifying the United Nations security management system. The Department of Safety and Security was established in 2005. Since then, through a number of initiatives that are highlighted in this report,

[1] The United Nations security management system is applicable to and includes all United Nations system organizations and a small number of non-United Nations entities, which have a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations on security management. The goal of the United Nations security management system is to enable the conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the safety, security and well-being of personnel and the security of United Nations premises and assets.

it has increasingly worked towards its strategic aim to enable the safest and most efficient conduct of mandated programmes and activities of the United Nations system worldwide.

5. As envisaged by the General Assembly, the Department provides policy, operational and oversight support for the United Nations security management system. In cooperation with all actors in the United Nations security management system, the Department undertakes efforts within its purview to facilitate, coordinate and continuously review the United Nations security management system to ensure that it is responsive to an evolving global security environment and can deliver effective safety and security measures to protect United Nations operations, its personnel, premises and assets.

6. Within a comprehensive policy framework, the Department, under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, maintains a strategic focus on:

(a) Support and facilitation of the effective conduct of United Nations activities by ensuring a coherent, effective and timely response to all security-related events and emergencies;

(b) Implementing effective risk mitigation through a United Nations system-wide coordinated security risk assessment mechanism;

(c) Developing high-quality, best-practice security policies, guidelines, standards and operational procedures across the United Nations security management system;

(d) Enhancing compliance with established policies, standards and operational procedures;

(e) Applying the most cost-effective use of security personnel through centrally directed recruitment, selection, training, deployment and career development of its personnel, while striving to strengthen efforts to enhance geographical and gender balance.

II. Strategic vision, mission and objectives

A. Enabling United Nations operations: balancing security with programmes

7. Faced with an unprecedented level of threats and, at the same time, increasing demands for United Nations operations and presence, particularly in high-risk environments, the Department has, since 2007, comprehensively reviewed its security management policy framework and approach to ensure that it can meet these security challenges.

8. In 2009, the United Nations system, through its Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), adopted a new strategic vision and policy shift in security

management from a "when to leave" to a "how to stay" approach[2] to support the delivery of United Nations system-mandated programmes and activities, even in highly challenging security situations. At the same time, CEB also adopted the principles of "no programme without security" and "no security without resources". This new strategic vision and policy shift called for a review of the tools and architecture of the United Nations security management system to balance security with programme requirements. Accordingly, the Department made and continues to make concerted efforts to build a modern, information-based, decentralized, cost-effective and efficient United Nations security management system, anchored on responsive and sophisticated security risk management tools, among other operational and policy tools. With the development of enabling security management tools, the Department can continue to support and serve clients in the United Nations security management system, host Governments, Member States and other non-United Nations partners.[3]

9. Accordingly, since 2009, the Department worked, in tandem with its partners in the United Nations security management system, through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (see para. 19) to:

(a) Address any policy and operational deficiencies in the security management system;

(b) Design a new, stronger, more dynamic and proactive security and risk management architecture;

(c) Undertake efforts to mainstream safety and security at all levels of United Nations system activities, including ensuring that the safety and security of United Nations personnel is an integral part of programme planning at all levels;

(d) Promote security management as an enabler of United Nations system programmes and activities.

10. A comprehensive policy and operational review resulted, inter alia, in the establishment of a number of new initiatives, including:

(a) The development of a security risk management model and guidelines for determining acceptable risk (2009);[4]

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[2] At its April 2009 session, CEB stated in a joint statement: "Thousands of women and men working for the United Nations system around the world regularly face violence and threats from armed conflict, terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, harassment and intimidation. Given the increasingly difficult and dangerous conditions faced by staff, the United Nations is at a critical juncture. Urgent and dramatic action is needed to strengthen a United Nations security framework that seeks to protect staff and allow operations to continue in insecure and unstable environments. We need to adopt a shift in culture and mindset from a 'when to leave' to a 'how to stay' approach to security management" (CEB/2009/HLCM/18, annex A).

[3] These include non-governmental organizations accredited with the United Nations and other international organizations and regional organizations that are implementing partners of United Nations programmes and activities.

[4] The policy became effective in 2009; see A/65/320.

(b) The establishment of the Executive Group on Security, under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Safety and Security (2009);[5]

(c) The revision of the framework of accountability for the United Nations security management system (2010);[6]

(d) The abolishment of the United Nations security phase system (2010);[7]

(e) The introduction of the security level system (2011);[7]

(f) The development of a policy to strengthen cooperation with host Governments (2012).

11. Recognizing that there are financial costs associated with providing adequate security, the Department continues to promote and refine its efforts to ensure, from the outset, the mainstreaming of security costs within programmes and activities.

B. Decentralization: overview of support to security operations in the field at all levels

12. The Department recognizes that, in many security situations, those on the ground in the field have the best vantage point from which to exercise judgement in assessing and handling security issues. To support the decentralization of decision-making on security matters, concerted efforts have been taken at the Headquarters level to support both designated officials for security,[8] who lead United Nations activities, programmes and mandates worldwide in their respective areas of assignment, and security professionals in carrying out their security management responsibilities in line with the framework of accountability for the United Nations security management system.

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[5] When requested by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, or at the request of any member of the Executive Group on Security, the Executive Group on Security advises the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in situations where a rapid decision is required to avoid loss of life or to resolve an impasse at the security management team level; see A/65/320.

[6] The first framework of accountability for the United Nations security management system was created in 2002. It was one of the first truly formalized accountability frameworks in the Organization, applicable across the United Nations system. Following CEB approval of a revised framework of accountability in 2009 that more clearly delineated the roles and responsibilities of actors in the United Nations security management system, at all levels, the framework was presented to the General Assembly in 2010, as had been the case with previous versions of the framework. The General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General in its resolution 65/259, including the revised framework of accountability. The revised framework was subsequently promulgated throughout the United Nations security management system in 2011; see A/65/320, annex I.

[7] See A/65/320.

[8] In each country or designated area where the United Nations is present, the designated officials are normally the most senior United Nations official appointed in writing by the Secretary-General as the designated official for security, and accredited to the host Government as such. He/she is accountable to the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, and is responsible for the security of United Nations personnel, their eligible family members, premises and assets throughout the country or designated area.

13. Since 2007, the Department has frequently reviewed the global deployment of its security professionals and those of United Nations security management system partner organizations. Department of Safety and Security field security personnel are deployed to 113 out of some 180 countries where the United Nations system is present. From 2007 to date, the Department has assigned about 35 per cent, or 255, of its international and locally recruited security personnel, out of a total of 711 field security personnel, to field duty stations and missions in 12 countries and areas with elevated security risks and/or highly complex United Nations programmes and operations in the context of enabling the United Nations system to carry out its mandated activities.

14. Despite additional posts proposed and approved in 2009 by the General Assembly for field security operations, the existing security capacity still remains insufficient to place security officers in all countries where the United Nations is present. As such, the services of Department of Safety and Security security officers deployed in other countries, with a low-threat environment and/or light United Nations system footprint, used to support the United Nations security management system by assuming additional regional responsibilities.

15. Currently, the internationally recruited field security officers of the Department comprise 26 chief security advisers who are deployed in highly complex United Nations duty stations and integrated peacekeeping missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 87 security advisers in duty stations with moderately complex security situations, 46 deputy security advisers, 110 field security coordination officers, 25 security operations officers and security analysts in the security and information operations centres, and 9 stand-alone security information analysts. The creation of additional analytical capacity in the field has enhanced the security situational awareness of threats affecting the United Nations system in order to minimize risks to enable programme delivery, particularly in areas with heightened and serious security risks.

16. In addition to the global deployment of its security professionals, the Department support to designated officials, which also extends to security professionals, also includes the provision of improved analytical capacity, security training, access to more comprehensive information, better information sharing and the provision of critical incident stress management to be provided to United Nations personnel, when needed. These individual elements are addressed separately in this report.

C. Establishment of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security

17. The Department, from its establishment in 2005, merged into one department three former security structures of the United Nations: the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the civilian security component of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services, in order to build a unified and strengthened United Nations security management system. Operationally, the integration achieved to date has resulted in greater and effective coordination and support for security and safety arrangements for field and headquarter locations and United Nations peacekeeping operations under the strategic guidance and combined resource of one Department.

18. In promoting the mainstreaming of security management considerations in all activities and programmes of the United Nations, the Department provides strategic and operational input into interdepartmental efforts that consider programme planning, policy and operational issues that have security implications. Continuous coordination on a regular basis is maintained with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the planning, the implementation and the review of safety and security programmes. The Department also plays a key role in the provision of advice and recommendations to the International Civil Service Commission with respect to security-related allowances and entitlements applicable across the United Nations common system.

19. The Inter-Agency Security Management Network, a network of the CEB High-level Committee on Management, is the mechanism through which the Department executes its oversight and coordination responsibilities for the United Nations security management system. The Network comprises all members of the United Nations security management system and is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. It considers, reviews and approves United Nations security management system policies,[9] practices and procedures, administrative issues and resource parameters, and monitors their implementation. It holds regular and steering group sessions four times per year. Throughout the year, key members participate in weekly teleconferences to troubleshoot urgent issues and ensure coherence and coordination on a range of topical security issues.

D. Modern and information-based security management

20. Information analysis capacity is critical in enabling United Nations operations at Headquarters and in the field, especially in high-risk areas. Information analysis is imperative in understanding and framing the context in which the United Nations operates and the specific local security conditions that impact directly on the United Nations. Timely and effective information analysis increases security awareness among all United Nations personnel, and serves as an effective mechanism in times of crisis. The Department has taken continuous efforts over the past years to improve its information management and analysis capacity. This continues to require additional investments in the development of information management systems to broaden the scope and the capacity for analysis. There are currenly 5,000 United Nations system personnel with security or security-related responsibilities within the United Nations security management system who have access to the United Nations security managers' information network website. This site consolidates all security-related information and provides access to an office location database, the premises vulnerability questionnaire, the compliance information management system, the significant security incident management system, the security level system, the locally cost-shared budget tool, the travel request information process, travel advisories and access to the Department of Safety and Security document management system, which contains all official security-related documents, including security policies and guidelines, all agency communiqués, security plans and security risk assessments, among others.

[9] Policy decisions are referred to the High-level Committee on Management for a decision or further consideration of CEB.

E. Cooperation with host Governments

21. As the primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, their eligible family members, assets and premises rests with the host Government, the Department maintains close cooperation with host Government authorities of Member States of the United Nations on security issues. In cooperation with its United Nations security management system partners, the Department provides reports to United Nations intergovernmental bodies on issues related to the United Nations security management system, and engages in bilateral discussions on specific host country issues. In addition, the Department actively engages with Member States and provides training, in the field and at Headquarters, on security-related tools used by the United Nations security management system, including the security level system (see paras. 44 to 46 of the present report).

22. Furthermore, the Department established a common policy on relations with the host country on security issues for the United Nations security management system[10] in 2012 and continues to mainstream collaboration with host Governments on security matters in all policies and guidelines applicable to all United Nations system organizations.

F. Efforts beyond the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide

23. From 2007 to date, the Department and its United Nations security management partners have made significant progress in carrying out policy and operational measures under their purview. Many of those measures are in line with the recommendations of the Independent Panel and include, inter alia:

(a) Significant improvement in the functioning of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network through improved leadership and the promotion of greater inclusiveness among members;

(b) Revision of the framework of accountability for the United Nations security management system that clearly defines the roles and the responsibilities of the Department of Safety and Security and actors in the United Nations security management system;

(c) Undertaking a comprehensive management review of the Department in August 2009;[11]

(d) Devising better security system methodologies and tools;

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[10] The policy on relations with the host country on security issues focuses on key areas of cooperation, including liaison with host Government authorities, information sharing and strategic communication and security risk management measures.

[11] The Organization completed the conduct of the management review of the Department of Safety and Security (A/63/605) in August 2009 in line with General Assembly resolution 61/263 and the CEB recommendation of March 2009, following the report of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide issued on 9 June 2008.

(e) Improving the human resources management, in particular, of United Nations security professionals in the field through continuous reviews and assessments.

24. The Department and its United Nations security management system partners also took measures within their remit that went beyond the key recommendations[12] of the report of the Independent Panel of 9 June 2008 and the 2009 management review of the Department to maximize the enabling of United Nations system mandates in the face of increased security challenges and threats against the United Nations system. Policy and operational advice to the field increased through improved communications. Designated officials and security professionals were further empowered through more focused training efforts. While undertaking its efforts, largely on behalf of most of its personnel based in the field, the Department managed to maintain a lean, transparent and efficient Headquarters capacity.

III. Main programmes and activities

Current structure of the Department of Safety and Security

25. The Department of Safety and Security is headed by the Under-Secretary-General, who is assisted by the Assistant Secretary-General. The Office of the Under-Secretary-General is supported by the Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit and the Compliance, Evaluation and Monitoring Section, which are responsible, respectively, for the development of United Nations security management system policies and guidelines, in tandem with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, and for providing worldwide evaluation and monitoring of compliance with security policy and procedures. The Executive Office of the Department is responsible for all financial, personnel, logistics and general administrative matters concerning the Department, as delegated by the Under-Secretary-General for Management.

26. For operational and technical security management support and services to United Nations operations and programmes worldwide at field and Headquarters locations, the Department has three main components: the Division of Regional Operations; the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services; and the Field Support Services.

Division of Regional Operations

27. The Division of Regional Operations is responsible for the coordination and management of safety and security field operations and serves as the safety and security focal point for field duty stations, providing primary operational and technical support and guidance to security professionals and managers worldwide. The Division ensures security coordination with designated officials for security and security management teams at United Nations system duty stations globally, including developing, reviewing and endorsing security risk assessments and security plans and ongoing reviews of security levels for areas where there are United Nations operations; and providing security support and assistance to

[12] See the report of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of Untied Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide (9 June 2008).

implementing partners of the United Nations system organizations under the "Saving Lives Together" framework.[13]

28. Of about 778 personnel of the Division, 67 are based at United Nations Headquarters, while some 711 are in field duty stations. The Division field security personnel include 303 internationally recruited security officers and about 408 local security assistants.[14] The Division of Regional Operations headquarters security personnel work in four regional sections (Africa, Asia and Pacific, Europe and Americas, Middle East and North Africa) and in the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section, which provide daily technical security coordination to designated officials and security management teams and technical support and assistance to field security officers. From January 2009 to date, the regional sections and Peacekeeping Operations Support Section has conducted over 250 security assistance missions to the field.

29. In addition, the Division houses the threat and risk assessment unit, which serves as an early warning mechanism on threats directed at the United Nations, providing analytical support to the Department and organizations of the United Nations security management system. The unit develops the unified analytical methodology, processes and procedures in support of security information analysts in the field and conducts strategic security threat and risk assessment missions to the field, including in peacekeeping missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

30. There is also a communications centre operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week that is responsible for maintaining situational awareness concerning all aspects of security in the field, ensuring continuous and secure communications with United Nations duty stations. It serves as the primary support facility for the Crisis Coordination Centre of the Department, when activated, to coordinate crisis management operations to support United Nations field duty stations. With the establishment of the new United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, the coordination of a single and consolidated United Nations response to crisis situations will be further streamlined, capitalizing on synergies within the Organization.

Field Support Services

31. The Field Support Services of the Department, comprising the Training and Development Section, the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit, the Crisis Management Information Support Section, the Registry Unit and the Aviation Risk Management Office, provides security training, critical incident stress counselling, information management support and aviation risk management support to United Nations system organizations worldwide.

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[13] "Saving Lives Together" is an initiative that was developed by the Department, in tandem with Secretariat departments and the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, to establish a framework for security management cooperation between the United Nations and United Nations-accredited non-governmental organizations and humanitarian partners.

[14] Local security assistants provide support to international security officers in the conduct of field security operations. They help develop and maintain timely updated personnel lists, operate field security communications systems, assist in the establishment of the warden systems and perform other security-related functions, as appropriate.

32. Since 2009, the Training and Development Section has focused on a new vision and reviewed and put into place a modern learning system for United Nations security management in line with a global best practice standard. This competency-based learning system, which establishes a valued standard for all security personnel, has a direct link to the career management of security professionals. The Training and Development Section envisages establishing exam and certification centres, which will test the knowledge and practical competencies of security professionals through training programmes at established centres (such as in Nairobi) and at other regional training hubs. The establishment of such centres would ensure the maintenance of rigorously controlled professional standards for United Nations security personnel and managers with security responsibilities throughout the United Nations security management system. The compliance and effective implementation of security management policies and procedures depends on the effective and well-resourced training capacity of the Organization to ensure system-wide awareness and understanding of these policies.

33. The Critical Incident Stress Management Unit serves as the focal point for providing emergency psychosocial support to United Nations personnel worldwide. It also coordinates and carries out the United Nations global stress management training programme as part of the ongoing efforts of the Organization to support survivors and associated family members following crisis events. Following the meeting of the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General on 9 April 2012, the Department has been involved, through active collaboration with the Unit, in efforts to strengthen aspects of preparedness and support for survivors injured in the line of duty, and affected families.

34. The Critical Incident Stress Management Unit has instituted an intensive counsellor certification training programme to enhance the critical incident counselling aspect of United Nations crisis response preparedness. This provides harmonized, readily accessible quality psychosocial services to United Nations system personnel using professional resources at the country level. The Unit also advocates for the creation of critical incident intervention cells in high-risk duty stations to promote access to sustainable counselling services. The Unit also promotes United Nations inter-agency and interdepartmental collaboration through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network Working Group on Critical Incident Stress, a multi-disciplinary group composed of 20 representatives of the United Nations system organizations (counsellors, security, medical doctors, human resource officers), who are nominated by their respective security focal point.

35. The Crisis Management Information Support Section manages the United Nations security managers' information network website, which allows United Nations personnel with security management responsibilities access to the Department website that contains relevant security information including the travel advisory, United Nations security management system policy documents and online security training (Basic Security in the Field and Advanced Security in the Field). Through its travel request information process system, approximately 5,500 security clearance requests are processed daily. From January 2012 to date, the Department has processed over 2 million security clearance requests through its travel request information process system. The information collected through the use of the Crisis Management Information Support Section-developed systems is of crucial importance in supporting field offices, particularly during crisis events.

36. In May 2011, the Department established the Aviation Risk Management Office, which was fully staffed earlier this year. The Office is charged with providing advice to the United Nations security management system on the relative safety of air travel, taking into account the travel habits and destinations of United Nations personnel. The Office has established working relationships with all United Nations organizations to advance its work.

Security and Safety Services

37. Fully integrated within the Department, the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services is responsible for overseeing all the Security and Safety Services/Sections by providing direction, operational guidance, technical supervision and standardized security services to 28,000 personnel and approximately 1.7 million visitors each year to United Nations Headquarters, other headquarter duty stations and the Tribunals.[15] Initially established in 1948 as the United Nations Guard, the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services is the oldest component of the Department. Now, comprising 1,600 United Nations uniformed security personnel, the Division is responsible for providing a secure and safe environment for delegates, personnel and visitors at United Nations Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and the regional commissions, as well as the Tribunals. It provides security coordination and service delivery at annually recurring high-profile security events, such as the General Assembly at Headquarters, specific major summits/conferences, and various United Nations-sponsored events and conferences outside the headquarter locations and Tribunals.

38. The Division's Protection Coordination Unit, created in 2005, manages the growing number of requests for protective services for senior officials and dignitaries by coordinating the needs assessment for protective services and the deployment of suitable officers when required. Since its creation, the Unit has carried out approximately 2,356 close protection operations. The Unit has also developed robust systems and processes that have led to comprehensive implementation of personal security risk assessments and other enabling mechanisms for senior United Nations officials.

39. As the global threats against the Organization have increased and many United Nations locations have become an attractive target owing to their iconic nature and large numbers of personnel and visitors, the Security and Safety Services focused on strengthening physical security and access control through better design, technologically driven solutions and their robust implementation, targeted recruitment, and enhanced specialized training, as well as crisis management preparedness.

[15] These include the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the regional commissions, namely, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials and the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

IV. Milestone achievements since June 2007

A. Progress of work in the United Nations security management system and the Inter-Agency Security Management Network

40. Since 2007, there has been a marked improvement in the functioning of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. Greater collaboration and inclusiveness have been promoted among Network members. The Department supports Network members and the functioning of the United Nations security management system by:

(a) Developing security and security-related management policies and operational guidelines for its consideration and subsequent consideration by the United Nations High-level Committee on Management and CEB;

(b) Coordinating Inter-Agency Security Management Network Steering Group and regular sessions;

(c) Providing strategic interventions and timely support to agencies, funds and programmes through host Governments, when required, in order to address security management issues;

(d) Providing United Nations system-wide compliance and evaluation of security management structures, at Headquarters and field locations;

(e) Providing field support services, including standardized security and safety training, the provision of critical incident stress management counselling, security management information technology, and crisis management support during security-related crises;[16]

(f) Providing day-to-day security management operational support[17] and technical advice to United Nations system security professionals[18] in the field, designated officials and security management teams in geographical areas where the United Nations is present;

(g) Providing the coordinated management of close protection for the United Nations system organizations, as required, and the management of the safety and security of United Nations premises in headquarter locations;[19]

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[16] This may include field support services in specific areas such as handling hostage-taking incidents, among others.

[17] This includes maintaining the function of a communications channel 24 hours per day/7 days per week (through its communication centre) between field locations and the United Nations Secretariat to receive and transmit information on security-related incidents or events with effects on the safety and security of United Nations personnel and to transmit "all agency communiqués" throughout the United Nations security management system on security-related recommendations, actions and decisions, including relocations and evacuations.

[18] These include security professionals deployed by the Department and the United Nations system organizations.

[19] These locations include United Nations Headquarters and headquarter locations in Nairobi, Vienna, Geneva, Addis Ababa, Beirut, Santiago and Bangkok, and international Tribunal locations where the Security and Safety Services of the Department of Safety and Security has deployed its personnel.

(h) Providing administrative support on resource requirements and activity levels in the field, and on personnel issues that are within the purview of the Department;

(i) Strengthening cooperation with the United Nations system's implementing partners (e.g., non-governmental organizations) on security issues and the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel through the "Saving Lives Together" initiative.

B. Key achievements in policy development and implementation

41. The Department, in tandem with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, achieved key milestones in developing a comprehensive safety and security policy framework. It has established concrete security management policies in the areas for which there had previously been none. As cited in paragraph 8 above, the "how to stay" concept brought with it the need for the Department to develop and revise security management policies, as well as address policy gaps to support the application of this new culture. Overarching policies such as those on relations with the host country, close protection operations, use of force, arrest and detention, hostage incident management and road and fire safety were either newly developed or updated. The Department, together with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, continues to develop new security management policies, operating guidelines and tools and to formalize policies and procedures that had previously existed in an ad hoc form.

42. With the successful launch of the Department's United Nations security managers' information network website, all revised and new policies and guidelines, contained in the United Nations security management system Security Policy Manual, and the existing Field Security Handbook, are accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to United Nations security managers globally. All United Nations personnel have access to policies and guidelines through the Department website, which is regularly updated. The Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit of the Department provides policy advice and clarifications regarding the interpretation of all existing security and safety policies to ensure their common interpretation and implementation across the system. With the greater dissemination of information and increased efforts at communicating this information across a broader spectrum, there is an improved awareness across the United Nations system of the Department's efforts to enable United Nations system mandates and programmes by finding ways to stay and operate.

C. Security risk management process and tools

43. From 2007, the Department has enhanced its ability to identify, analyse and understand security threats against the United Nations by developing and refining a security risk management architecture to maximize the ability of the United Nations system to operate in high-risk environments. One of the tools that challenged the full promulgation of the new security risk management architecture was the security phase system, which had increasingly proved over time to be an oversimplified and blunt instrument by which to make security-related decisions. For example, when phase 5 (the highest phase level) was declared, all operations ceased. Security

management for the United Nations system was therefore equated with risk aversion. Furthermore, the security phase system was inextricably linked with actions that triggered certain security-related entitlements; i.e., a certain phase level would automatically trigger the evacuation or relocation of United Nations personnel and/or their eligible family members according to an oversimplified prescribed set of criteria. It often did not allow for the possibility of continuing United Nations operations especially at critical moments and in high-risk locations.

44. With the introduction in 2009 of the overarching "how to stay" approach, it was clear that the security phase system was no longer a viable tool. The United Nations abolished the security phase system on 31 December 2010, under the auspices of the High-level Committee on Management Steering Committee on Safety and Security, which had been established to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Panel, one of which was to abolish the security phase system. Subsequently, security professionals came together to develop the security level system, which aims to offer an objective manner in which to assess threats within a security risk management model.

45. The security risk management model encompasses a range of policies, tools and guidelines for use in the United Nations security management system. It begins with identifying and assessing threats (distinctly different from risks), then considering that information in a holistic security risk assessment to determine the level of risk after putting in place risk mitigation measures. Once the level of risk is determined, another examination is made to see what else the United Nations system can do to lower the risk in order to determine the resulting level of residual risk. The level of residual risk is instrumental in determining whether United Nations system operations can continue or should continue, for example, with a smaller presence or by establishing a remote presence. The security level system therefore feeds the first part of this process by providing a means by which threats may be identified and assessed. Therefore, the security level system in itself does not trigger specific actions, such as evacuation or relocation.

46. The United Nations security management system promulgated the security level system as at 1 January 2011, thus providing security professionals with an additional tool for security risk management. Department of Safety and Security security personnel in the field have been encouraged to share and work through this tool with respective host country authorities. In addition, at the Department of Safety and Security headquarters, the tool and training on the use of the tool with Member States was and continues to be made available when requested.

47. Although a great deal of work has been done over the last few years in developing the security risk management model currently used, further review and adjustments are ongoing. There is a need for further efforts to increase the understanding of security managers and professionals on the application of the security risk management model and its tools. In this context, the Department is examining how to improve the process and format of security risk assessments, including the development of a web-based tool to assist in this process.

D. Key achievements in operational support

48. The Department made further strides in supporting operations in the field with additional measures put in place to strengthen threat and risk assessment, including

efforts to promote greater synergy and cooperation with host country authorities, the creation of additional analyst positions and security information operation centres in high-risk areas, and the development of a comprehensive and rigorous training programme for security analysts.

49. The Department's additional operational support enabled the implementation of critical humanitarian, human rights, development, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and disaster recovery mandates of United Nations system organizations while ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel. Effective operational security support enables the full range of United Nations mandates, programmes and activities, especially in areas with elevated threats of armed conflict, extremism, criminality and civil unrest or areas of complex emergencies affecting the local population.

50. To support United Nations programmes and missions in highly volatile areas with often unpredictable threat environments, the Division of Regional Operations of the Department focused on contingency planning and crisis preparedness in the field. The Department has qualified cadres of experienced crisis managers, both in the field and at Headquarters, including specialists in the management of hostage incidents. From January 2009 to date, personnel of the Division of Regional Operations managed 49 hostage incidents involving 71 United Nations system personnel and family members, with all but one hostage released safely.[20]

51. From January 2009 to date, the Division conducted 185 "surge" missions, deploying its security personnel and security assets to United Nations system duty stations and missions affected by crisis situations to assist designated officials and security management teams in the field in enabling complex operations or rehabilitation and recovery activities following natural disasters.

E. Key achievements in field support services

52. The Department progressed in putting into place structured security training programmes, further developed its capacity for critical incident stress counselling for United Nations system personnel, made great strides in information management and, more recently, advanced efforts in aviation risk management, in order to provide improved services to programme activities in the field.

53. In 2007, the Department established the Department of Safety and Security helpdesk (dsshelp@un.org), as well as a secure Inter-Agency Security Management Network website with document access for all Network members. In 2008, the Department created the United Nations security managers' information network database, which eventually replaced the Network website, to provide security professionals within the United Nations security management system and those with security responsibilities access to security-related information.

54. A milestone achievement in 2010 was the establishment of the United Nations travel request information process system, which replaced the integrated security clearance system, and provided for a more comprehensive travel advisory and compliance information system. The Department launched a web-based questionnaire

[20] The only hostage not released safely was a United Nations personnel family member who died from natural causes.

to accurately determine the number of United Nations premises worldwide. To date, information on some 6,000 United Nations locations worldwide has been collected. Other information management systems that the Department has established over the past year include those that support security training and certification programmes. Currently, 1,000 United Nations personnel complete the online Basic Security in the Field training daily. A Geographic Information System capacity, created in 2008, included the first interactive maps to be made available on the United Nations security managers' information network website. In 2012, the Department launched the significant security incident reporting system globally, to allow for systematic information gathering on significant security incidents from United Nations system duty stations worldwide. Information collected through the use of the systems developed by the Department's Crisis Management Information Support Section provides critical support to field offices, particularly during crisis events.

55. By June 2012, the Department had thoroughly reviewed its core learning programmes and restructured these to include more efficient use of online, web-based learning platforms and distance learning with greater focus on multidimensional security training. The transition from training to learning began in 2010 and was based on sound academic theory and competency-based learning best practices. All Department of Safety and Security training programmes were subsequently reviewed through a competency-based learning filter, amended to meet newer, more rigorous standards and restructured to include a more efficient use of online, web-based learning platforms and distance learning, with a stronger emphasis on "soft-skills" training. All other Department of Safety and Security learning programmes, including safety (driver, aviation and fire), and specialist training programmes (i.e., hostage incident management, close protection and emergency medical training) are being reviewed through the competency-based learning filter with a view to redesigning these to meet the current security management needs of the United Nations system.

56. Key achievements in providing critical incident stress counselling included the establishment and the revision of standard operating procedures to improve the coordination between the United Nations system counselling network, the United Nations Medical Emergency Team and the Emergency Preparedness and Support Team of the Office of Human Resources Management. Globally, 235 mental health professionals, including United Nations counsellors covering 93 countries, have received training and certification. The support provided by the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit led to the hiring and deployment of 20 local counsellors on a cost-shared basis.

57. From 2007 to December 2011, the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit was involved in the management of 49 major critical incidents, including natural disasters, extremist attacks, plane crashes, evacuations, political unrest and hostage incidents involving United Nations system personnel. That resulted in the provision of counselling services to 60,726 United Nations system personnel. In addition, the Unit has provided training on stress management and related topics for some 33,155 United Nations system personnel serving in high-risk duty stations, in order to build their capacities and resiliency in carrying out their mandates in difficult environments. The Unit's counselling services during crises has significantly increased, reaching 23,806 United Nations system personnel. Moreover, local counsellors progressively engaged in the provision of welfare activities, reaching

3,087 personnel. In instituting an intensive counsellor certification training programme using professional resources at the country level, which is aimed at providing harmonized, readily accessible and quality psychosocial services to United Nations personnel, the unit has enhanced crisis response preparedness for the United Nations system. To date, 235 mental health professionals, including United Nations counsellors covering 93 countries have been trained and certified through this programme.

58. From 2007 to 2011, through the building of local critical incident intervention cells in high-risk duty stations supported by 751 peer helpers, the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit was able to cost effectively delegate training and the management of crises of limited magnitude to field counsellors and local mental health professionals who so far have provided welfare activities to some 3,087 personnel.

59. Earlier this year, the Department, in cooperation with other United Nations security management system partners, successfully launched a road safety campaign targeting United Nations system personnel globally, including with a video, developed by the Training and Development Section, which was made available on the Department of Safety and Security website and on other United Nations system organization websites, that focuses on the risks associated with speeding, distraction and driving under the influence of alcohol. The campaign aims to promote awareness on road safety and the prevention of road accidents. Road hazards were the primary cause of death and injury to United Nations system personnel during 2010-2011.[21]

F. Achievements in administrative support

60. To date, the Department has overcome the initial challenges it faced in establishing a new departmental structure that is based on multiple sources of integrated funding requiring the administration and oversight of over $400 million biennially. Through efforts made at the Departmental level, United Nations security management system partners are increasingly provided with clear, transparent information on jointly financed activities, on a regular basis.

61. The Department made significant progress regarding the urgent recruitment and deployment of over 700 field security personnel, the equipping of field offices and personnel in over 180 countries, the implementation of a managed reassignment programme for field personnel and the facilitation of 185 "surge" missions to crisis situations, through the timely deployment of security personnel, vehicles and equipment.

62. In addition, the Department adopted a multifaceted approach to administrative support that includes an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme for the administration of Department of Safety and Security field officers globally. In order to achieve maximum cost-effectiveness and the correct level of oversight, the management of logistical support to the field was centralized, including with respect to procurement, asset management and supply. Through the United Nations security managers' information network website, United Nations

[21] Of the safety-related incidents in 2010, road traffic accidents caused 84 per cent of the deaths and 90 per cent of the injuries of United Nations staff members (see A/66/345).

security management system partners are provided with access to comprehensive information on locally cost-shared field budgets, to increase transparency with respect to the use of security funding.

63. Furthermore, the Department successfully launched large-scale recruitment campaigns to identify qualified and experienced security professionals (with a strong emphasis on geographical and gender diversity) for its increased field operations.

G. Key achievements in security and safety services for headquarter locations

64. The Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services of the Department took concerted measures to deter intrusions and attacks against the 12 United Nations headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and Tribunals where it deploys United Nations uniformed security services and is responsible for ensuring premises security and access control. Preventive and deterrent measures of physical security, access control measures and contingency planning, among other measures, as well as effective cooperation with host Governments, were enacted with respect to United Nations Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and Tribunal locations. The protection of those locations required the design of efficient security programmes that are flexible enough to meet the programmatic and operational needs of both United Nations personnel and visitors.

65. Since 2007, the Department has considerably strengthened access control systems at those locations and the implementation of the Project Access Control. The main goal achieved by the project was the implementation of a comprehensive, fully integrated and standardized global access control system of personnel and vehicles entering United Nations premises. The project helped strengthen perimeter protection and led to greater physical security systems' integration, including providing appropriate responses to incidents. Current measures of the project will be completed by the end of 2012. Other key security enhancement elements and efficiencies established towards better securing those locations include the strategic initiatives taken by the United Nations Security and Safety Services Network, chaired by the Director of the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety and comprised of all Safety and Security Services security chiefs to streamline and standardize services and develop and deliver effective and modern global security and safety services.

66. Most recently, the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety led the security arrangements for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, the largest event of its kind, with more than 45,000 participants. For the first time, the Division deployed United Nations uniformed security personnel globally from all of its locations and, together with the host country authorities, provided safety and security for some 130 Heads of State and Government representatives attending the event, enabling the Conference to take place without a single security incident.

V. Key current and future challenges

67. In a rapidly evolving global security environment, the United Nations system faces a broader scope and a consistently growing array of threats associated with armed conflict, violence, extremism, crime and civil unrest, including in conflict zones where Member States increasingly expect the United Nations to deliver its mandated programmes. Current trends point to increasing and more localized specific and targeted attacks on United Nations personnel and premises by violent extremist actors.

68. At the same time, in stark contrast to the past, respect for United Nations system personnel, including those carrying out humanitarian mandates, has eroded among opportunistic groups, rival militias and violent extremist entities. As illustrated by the attack on the United Nations House in Abuja on 26 August 2011, violent extremist actors, with links to extremist groups, targeted the United Nations system in an area that had not been considered as having an elevated security threat. The United Nations security management system needs to respond to these challenges to continue to enable United Nations system-mandated activities and operations. In order to do so, and to meet the demands that arise in the wake of increased security challenges, the Department will continue to work together with its United Nations security management system partners within the resources available.

69. The increasing need for emergency surge requirements and the need to be able to respond to those requirements rapidly within limited means poses additional challenges for the Department and the United Nations security management system. For the past two years, the Organization managed to meet the needs of emergency surge requirements within available means, which was only possible through the reprioritization of its activities and redeployment of existing resources. This entailed taking human and financial resources from other duty stations and missions, which also require resources to mitigate security risks in their respective duty stations. As an example, the Department deployed personnel from the uniformed Security and Safety Services from duty stations in the 12 locations under the responsibility of the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety, to assist in fulfilling surge requirements. It was only through that action and the deployment of other security professionals from their normal assigned duty stations that the Department was able to provide integrated and location-specific support and services to a wide range of clients, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in a wide range of locations and scenarios, including in peacekeeping and special political missions and in support of multifaceted United Nations-mandated activities. As the need to fulfil surge requirements is likely to continue, if not increase, a more sustainable means of addressing these needs to be found.

70. With respect to the efforts taken to date to build a truly modern information-based security management system, the Department faces the challenge of funding investments in information-based systems. Currently, the core resources of the Information Management Section of the Department are only sufficient to maintain existing systems and infrastructures. As such, the Department has had to put on hold the development of additional information management systems to serve the United Nations security management system.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

71. As a relatively young department within the Secretariat and a unique one in its composition and funding, the Department of Safety and Security has taken and continues to take positive steps to provide safety and security support services for clients that span the entire United Nations system. Beyond its clients, it aims to serve Member States and the local populations who are the beneficiaries of United Nations system operations and activities.

72. The change in culture and mindset from "when to leave" to "how to stay", which requires the Department to enable United Nations personnel to carry out their mandated activities, places strenuous demands on the United Nations security management system. The Department continually evaluates its available resources to maximize the delivery of its mandated services. Acknowledging the dynamic nature of the security environment, it continually assesses and reviews its deployments to respond to evolving situations. It will continue to do so. However, this may not be enough to meet all the challenges it faces. The maintenance of the United Nations security management system can only continue with appropriate levels of funding that are sustainable, reliable and predictable.

73. An effective unified and strengthened United Nations security management system also requires actions beyond the purview of the Department, the Organization and its United Nations security management system partners. It requires the Member States, the Organization and other United Nations system partners to assume collective responsibility to ensure that security considerations are included in the earliest stages of programme and budgetary planning that determines the presence, roles and mandates of the United Nations system.

VII. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

74. **The General Assembly is requested to take note of the present report.**

United Nations A/67/527

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 October 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda items 18 (a) and (b), 22 (a), 33 and 83

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development; international financial system and development

Globalization and interdependence

Prevention of armed conflict

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 16 October 2012 from the Chargé d' affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you on behalf of the 105 member States of the Forum of Small States a document entitled "Report of the Conference of Small States" (see annex). A list of members of the Forum of Small States is attached as an appendix.

On behalf of the member States of the Forum of Small States, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18 (a) and (b), 22 (a), 33 and 83.

(*Signed*) Mark **Neo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 16 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the Conference of Small States, held in New York on 1 October 2012

I. Introduction

1. Established in 1992, the Forum of Small States is a diverse, non-ideological and informal grouping at the United Nations. The Forum provides a platform for small States to share information and strategies, to work together on issues of mutual interest and to lend a greater voice to their views and concerns. Currently, the Forum has 105 member States; they are listed in the appendix.

2. The Forum's Conference on Small States was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 1 October 2012 as the capstone event of the grouping's year-long twentieth anniversary celebrations. The aims of the Conference were to raise the international profile of small States and start a dialogue on the role and contributions of small States to the international agenda. Well over 250 participants from more than 120 countries, international organizations and non-governmental bodies participated in this inaugural Conference, which was open to the full membership of the United Nations and interested parties.

II. Opening session of the Conference

3. Following introductory remarks by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of Singapore, K. Shanmugam, the Conference was formally opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. Keynote addresses were given by the President of the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, Vuk Jeremić, and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Hillary Clinton. Mr. Shanmugam recalled the two founding principles of the Forum of Small States — inclusivity and informality. In the 20 years since its inception, the Forum has provided a platform for members to learn from each others' experiences, and become a significant grouping at the United Nations for canvassing for candidature support. Mr. Shanmugam said that small States shared a keen awareness of the external environment and approached issues realistically. He expressed hope that small States could continue to exercise thought leadership on global issues. Mr. Ban highlighted the meaningful role small States could play in global peace and development, especially as "bridge-builders" and mediators. He also felt that small States, particularly developing ones, faced special challenges and that their needs should be adequately addressed. This point was echoed by Mr. Jeremić, who noted that small States appreciated the importance of inclusive multilateral cooperation because of their particular challenges. Mr. Jeremić also said that it was not a State's size, but its ideas, initiatives and dynamism which determined its relevance in the international system. Mrs. Clinton emphasized the interconnected nature of the world and called on small and large States to work together to face current challenges. Small States could play leading roles on important issues on the international agenda, such as in advancing the rule of law,

which would ultimately determine the success of a country's development, and human rights. She affirmed the commitment of the United States to working with and learning from small States.

III. Morning session on small States and their role in international relations

4. The session was moderated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of Singapore, and featured the following panellists:

(a) Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, spoke about the role of small States in regional organizations, drawing on Ireland's experience as the current Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its forthcoming Presidency of the European Union. Membership of a regional organization had the potential to amplify a small State's voice, but vigilance was necessary as to the potential risks (introversion and lowest common denominator approaches). While small States were natural consensus builders, they had to deal with resource challenges and be ready to withstand pressure. Other points explored were (i) embracing a small State identity but not being constrained by it, (ii) what "small State sensibilities" mean in practice and (iii) small States as special custodians of multilateralism.

(b) Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, focused on small States' contributions to regional and international peace and security. He highlighted the participation of countries of the Forum of Small States in mediation efforts and United Nations peacekeeping missions. He also spoke about Gabon's experiences as a member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for three terms. He emphasized the importance of conflict prevention to avoid unnecessary loss of life and costly peacekeeping operations.

(c) Kieren Keke, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nauru, spoke about Nauru's experience as the current chair of the Alliance of Small Island States and said that micro-States could lead international negotiations. Nauru's smallness had given it a unique and valuable perspective that would not be represented by large Powers, and had allowed it to express its views more candidly. He suggested that small States focus on issues relevant to the international community and of critical national importance, such as climate change and sustainable development. He stressed that the principles of sovereignty and equal votes at the United Nations would allow the views of small States to be taken into account.

(d) Vladimir Makei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, said that globalization had significantly increased the contributions of small States to international relations. He highlighted that the rise of small States had established a truly global multipolar order, but had also created a multitude of international players, resulting in greater difficulty for all the States to agree on common action. He stressed that small States should unite as a coherent force to stand on an equal footing with large Powers. He called for small States to lead global partnerships and empower the United Nations.

(e) Murray McCully, Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, called for an improvement in the way that the United Nations served the interests of small

States. He said that small States were often the object of United Nations focus but were not given opportunities to present their views, even when the decisions made affected them directly. Small States were often marginalized in the United Nations. He emphasized the need to reform the United Nations Security Council to make it more transparent and accountable to all States. New Zealand and other small States had a huge stake in establishing effective multilateral institutions and clear rules for acceptable behaviour.

5. Several participants made statements from the floor. Urmas Paet, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, outlined the strength of small States in international politics and highlighted Estonia's contributions in the field of information and communication technology. José Badia, Counsellor for External Relations of Monaco, stated that small States constituted the majority of the United Nations and he emphasized the importance of openness and transparency as well as capacity-building for small States. Marie-Joseé Jacobs, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxembourg, gave Luxembourg's perspectives on how small States could contribute to global affairs, multilateral diplomacy and international security. Mamadou Tangara, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad of Gambia, called for concerted international action to fulfil the development goals of small States, in particular least developed countries, in areas such as poverty reduction and food security. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti, called for the reinforcement of the objective of the Forum of Small States as a platform for small States to form strategies and synergies to enhance their decisions at the United Nations. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, highlighted nimbleness and flexibility as the two major features of small States that could build consensus within the international community on crucial issues.

6. In summing up the morning panel session, Mr. Shanmugam highlighted the common themes of the interventions, including the significant advantages small States enjoyed by having faster decision-making and implementation processes, and a keener awareness of the external environment. Small States could overcome physical challenges, such as challenges of size and geography, by cooperating with like-minded countries. He added that small States should work to ensure better streamlining of United Nations processes to improve the Organization's efficiency, including through reform of the Security Council.

IV. Working lunch on small States and mediation

7. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, delivered the keynote address at the working lunch. The session was moderated by Chew Tai Soo, Ambassador-at-Large of Singapore, who highlighted the qualities that made Mr. Ahtisaari an accomplished negotiator, including his realism, pragmatism, fairness, toughness and decisiveness. Mr. Ahtisaari also had an excellent sense of timing, particularly with regard to the right juncture to intervene for "frozen conflicts".

8. In his address, Mr. Ahtisaari noted that small States faced a variety of development challenges and vulnerabilities due to their inherent limitations. However, they were more flexible and adaptable to global challenges. In addition,

well-organized small States could play a constructive role in the resolution of conflicts. He pointed to Singapore's initiative to establish the Forum of Small States as an example of how small nations could create a big, benign impact. Small players in international relations did not always have to be pawns on the chessboard, as long as they demonstrated the capacity to cooperate, to be trustworthy, and to be good sports. It was in the interest of small States to promote the observance of international law as they thrived best in a world where law and consensus were the norms underpinning international relations. He firmly believed that all conflicts could be resolved. However, he acknowledged that some difficult conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could only be resolved with the joint effort of major Powers and other parties.

9. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson, urged small States to stand up for impartiality and to play a more active role in mediation. Drawing from his experience in negotiating the peace agreement between the Free Aceh Movement and the Government of Indonesia, Mr. Ahtisaari said that it was not always easy to be impartial; what was most important was to be seen as an honest broker and a flexible negotiator. Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, suggested that the Forum of Small States should organize further meetings to discuss the role of small States in the mediation of international conflicts.

10. Riyad H. Mansour, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, asked what role small States could play in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly when bigger States had been unable to make any progress. Mr. Ahtisaari said that small States had to maintain a principled approach and keep to all the principles that had been accepted by the international community. Abdulkhaleq Bin-Dhaaer Al-Yafei, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, noted that there had been little progress in the Middle East peace process and asked for Mr. Ahtisaari's views on how it would evolve in the middle to long term. Mr. Ahtisaari said that small States, being innovative, could come up with new ideas to move the Middle East peace process forward.

V. Afternoon session on small States and their drive to development

11. The session was moderated by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Helen Clark, and featured the following panellists:

(a) Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan, delivered the keynote address. He spoke about Bhutan's unconventional developmental path based on the "Gross National Happiness" (GNH) index. This holistic framework had delivered positive results for Bhutan in achieving its developmental goals without sacrificing gross domestic product growth. Despite being a small country, Bhutan has gained international recognition for its implementation of the GNH index. Mr. Thinley stressed that multilateralism was important for small States as it provided a platform for them to get their voices heard. He therefore urged small States to act in concert where their interests converged, for example, to push for legitimate representation by small States on elected United Nations bodies.

(b) Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, spoke of Rwanda's successful journey in rebuilding the country after the genocide in 1994. She highlighted that Rwanda's progress was possible because the Rwandan leadership had learned from painful past lessons and took an inclusive and consultative approach to governance by giving citizens ownership over the country's development. Rwanda had also driven its economy forward by working towards regional economic integration in East Africa.

(c) Winston Dookeran, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, said that the vulnerability of small States was a permanent feature and an economic reality that big States and international financial institutions needed to recognize. It was important for small States to have resilient domestic economies by setting up internal buffers to cushion the impact of external shocks. Such internal buffers included accumulating reserves and using them to raise the level of development domestically. Small States also had to build partnerships at all levels to enlarge their political space.

(d) Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development of Finland, said that global interconnectivity necessitated that all States work together to address transboundary problems. Small States could play a key role in spearheading such discussions. In particular, she urged small States to cooperate on strengthening financial governance and to develop assets such as transparent governance and an independent judiciary. Given the rapid pace of globalization, small States also had to constantly reinvent themselves. Social cohesion was crucial in bringing a small State through economic difficulties.

(e) Yusuf bin Alawai bin Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Oman, expressed concern over food security. He urged the United Nations and all countries to work towards developing food reserves around the world, which would benefit all countries in the event of food crises.

12. Several participants made remarks from the floor. Octavio Errázuriz, Permanent Representative of Chile, said there was a need to streamline efforts on developmental issues to avoid the risk of duplication of efforts and weakening of the developmental agenda. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, underscored Australia's commitment to partnering small States to achieve their Millennium Development Goals and supporting their representation in multilateral organizations. Philippe Kridelka, representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the United Nations, and Dominique Bichara, special representative of the World Bank to the United Nations, reaffirmed their organizations' commitment to working with small States to promote their development.

13. In her closing remarks, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme observed that a common theme for the small States participating in the panel discussion was the importance of multilateralism and how it translated into practical governance that provided real benefits to the people. Ms. Clark acknowledged that small States suffered the most from the inability to conclude a global, multilateral trade deal and highlighted the importance of pushing the trade agenda further ahead.

Appendix

Members of the Forum of Small States

Albania	Denmark	Liechtenstein
Andorra	Djibouti	Lithuania
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Luxembourg
Armenia	El Salvador	Maldives
Austria	Estonia	Malta
Azerbaijan	Fiji	Marshall Islands
Bahamas	Finland	Mauritania
Bahrain	Gabon	Mauritius
Barbados	Gambia	Monaco
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia
Belize	Grenada	Montenegro
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Namibia
Bhutan	Guyana	Nauru
Bolivia	Haiti	New Zealand
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Honduras	Nicaragua
Botswana	Hungary	Norway
Brunei Darussalam	Iceland	Oman
Bulgaria	Ireland	Palau
Burundi	Jamaica	Panama
Cambodia	Jordan	Papua New Guinea
Cape Verde	Kuwait	Paraguay
Central African Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Qatar
Comoros	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Republic of Moldova
Costa Rica	Latvia	Rwanda
Croatia	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cyprus	Libya	Saint Lucia
Czech Republic	Liberia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Samoa	Slovenia	Togo
San Marino	Solomon Islands	Tonga
Senegal	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago
Seychelles	Swaziland	Tunisia
Serbia	Sweden	United Arab Emirates
Sierra Leone	Switzerland	Uruguay
Singapore	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Vanuatu
Slovakia	Timor-Leste	Zambia

United Nations A/67/528

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 20
Sustainable development

Letter dated 15 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Tbilisi Communiqué entitled "Educate today for a sustainable future", the outcome document of the Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, held in Tbilisi on 6 and 7 September 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Permanent Representative

12-56205 (E) 251012

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Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Tbilisi Communiqué

Educate today for a sustainable future

Adopted at the International Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, held in Tbilisi on 6 and 7 September 2012

1. We, the representatives of Governments from 98 countries, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, present at the Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (Tbilisi+35) held in Tbilisi on 6 and 7 September 2012, at the invitation of the Government of Georgia in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopt this Communiqué.

2. We recognize the historic significance of the 1977 Tbilisi Declaration adopted by the First Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education, and further, we recognize that environmental education processes support and champion education for sustainable development. This recognition is embodied in the Tbilisi+35 title "Environmental education for sustainable development". The United Nations system and Governments need to support environmental education within sound education for sustainable development policy frameworks. Different regions of the world have evolved sophisticated understandings of the relationship between environmental education and education for sustainable development, which is recognized in this Communiqué. The Communiqué's references to education for sustainable development acknowledge the critical importance of environmental education as it has evolved since the Tbilisi Declaration and speak to environmental education as well as education for sustainable development.

3. We commend the objectives of Tbilisi+35, which are to:

(a) Commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the 1977 Tbilisi Declaration;

(b) Provide a platform for environmental, educational and other relevant authorities to enhance international cooperation for a concerted action for a sustainable future;

(c) Acknowledge achievements of the global community in the implementation of environmental education and education for sustainable development;

(d) Address the need for a balanced approach between environmental conservation and development;

(e) Present recommendations in the light of recent developments, particularly those resulting from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Evolving vision from Tbilisi to Tbilisi (1977-2012)

4. We recognize that the recommendations from the First Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education and the Tbilisi Declaration in 1977 have played a crucial role in framing education around environmental protection and sustainable development, thus providing the fundamental principles for education for sustainable development. The objectives outlined at the 1977 Tbilisi Conference — namely awareness, knowledge, attitude, skills and participation — are still valid today, and the main goal — aligning human behaviours, actions, practices and social conditions towards a sustainable future — has yet to be achieved.

5. We acknowledge the historical roots and contributions of environmental education and the related vision of education for sustainable development and its evolution from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972); the International Workshop on Environmental Education (Belgrade, 1975); the First Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education (Tbilisi, 1977); the International Congress on Environmental Education and Training (Moscow, 1987); the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990); the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992); the International Conference on Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability (Thessaloniki, Greece, 1997); the Millennium Summit of the United Nations (New York, 2000); the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002); the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014); the Fourth International Conference on Environmental Education (Ahmedabad, India, 2007); the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Bonn, 2009); and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012).

6. We acknowledge the achievements of 35 years of environmental education and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development thus far and the global community's progress towards establishing education for sustainable development policies, strategies and initiatives at the global, regional, national and local levels; nevertheless, we note with regret that progress is still insufficient and unevenly distributed.

7. We recognize the key role and positive impact of the communication, education and public awareness provisions of multilateral environmental agreements and the development of environmental human rights, acknowledging as well the relationship between human rights and the environment; however, we note that their potential has yet to be fully realized in order to address the current sustainability challenges.

Rio+20 and "The future we want": new challenges for education

8. We take note of the Rio+20 outcome document entitled "The future we want", in particular the articles pertinent to education, as well as the recent findings of the UNESCO publication *Shaping the Education of Tomorrow: 2012 Report on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*, the UNEP publication *21 Issues for the 21st Century: Result of the UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues*, the fifth edition of the UNEP report *Global Environment Outlook* (GEO 5), and the report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, among others.

9. We further note that humanity faces persisting global challenges as underlined by "The future we want", including, but not limited to poverty, inequitable ownership, distribution and the unsustainable use of resources; social and environmental injustice; unequal educational opportunities; poor health systems; overpopulation; gender inequality; disparities between rural and urban development; loss of cultural heritage and biological diversity; and climate change and exposure to disasters and risk.

10. We commend the decision of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which stressed the importance of promoting education for sustainable development and more active integration of sustainable development into all levels and phases of the education and training system, and further welcome enhanced efforts on early childhood development, primary, secondary, vocational and higher education and training systems beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

11. We welcome the statements of "The future we want", which recognize the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and resilience. This requires an emphasis on education in bringing about a meaningful change in people's mindsets and attitudes in pursuing sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as training and reskilling the labour force.

Capturing progress: endorsing good practices

12. We affirm that education is critical to achieving sustainable development, inter alia, fostering green economies and sustainable societies, to overcome social and economic inequality and to promote intergenerational and intragenerational solidarity, peace and responsible lifestyles.

13. We commend the practices of continuous monitoring, reassessment and the revision of education so that it is a lifelong, holistic and inclusive learning process delivering its purpose beyond mere knowledge acquisition and enhancing values and ethics, creating new patterns of behaviours and lifestyles in line with the core intent of the 1977 Tbilisi Declaration and the principles of the Earth Charter.

14. We stress the importance of lifelong learning experiences and learner-oriented systems that include formal, non-formal and informal education empowering people and communities with the essential knowledge and life skills to foster societal transformation towards sustainability, in particular, practices that encourage education for sustainable development to develop key competences that facilitate the understanding of complexity, dealing with uncertainty, ethical dilemmas and risk management.

15. We welcome efforts towards equal access to quality education at all levels for attaining sustainable development, particularly for disadvantaged groups, including women, young people, indigenous communities, internally displaced persons and refugees, persons with disabilities, rural and urban poor and ethnic and racial minorities.

16. We affirm the importance of the foundations of education for sustainable development starting in the early childhood years for formal and informal learning of young people.

26. Accelerate the institutionalization of education for sustainable development commitments at all levels contributing to good governance in overarching sustainable development processes;

27. Promote the empowerment of young people through education for sustainable development processes and encourage their creativity and leadership to become change agents for a sustainable future;

28. Encourage educational, environmental and other relevant authorities to take coordinated action by establishing partnerships among governmental agencies, civil society, the corporate sector and general, vocational and higher education institutions;

29. Address the issue of green economies in education for sustainable development, including better understanding of the role of green economies in achieving sustainable development, as well as providing the appropriate knowledge and skills for the creation of green jobs, while ensuring social equality;

30. Encourage initiatives and partnerships to address priority issues, such as the transition towards sustainable agriculture, water resources and ecosystems management, climate change, disaster risk reduction and resource efficiency, and to strengthen the role of environmental education within the context of education for sustainable development;

31. Support educational, environmental and other relevant authorities to adhere to education for sustainable development principles and approaches in their curriculum-planning, institutional mechanisms and staffing frameworks, so that the appropriate capacity exists for mainstreaming education for sustainable development into the education and environmental policies of all countries;

32. Encourage environmental, educational and other relevant education for sustainable development authorities and non-governmental organizations to actively incorporate education for sustainable development into national environmental and education action plans. To this end, we commend the full utilization of existing resources, including protected areas, such as UNESCO biosphere reserves, for outdoor learning and research; sensitizing children and adults to the existing and emerging sustainable development challenges and equipping them with hands-on knowledge and the skills for sustainable lifestyles;

33. Strengthen and upgrade the existing international mechanisms, organizations and institutions for transferring knowledge, technologies and innovations, for creating viable education for sustainable development capacities worldwide, and optimize the use of existing international educational exchanges and create new exchanges and partnerships within and across countries sponsoring fellowships, internships, and scholarships by, inter alia, employing new technologies, with special consideration of the needs of developing countries;

34. Advocate for investment in education for sustainable development to be considered as an integral part of development financing. Foster provision of financial opportunities through supporting the incorporation of education for sustainable development into the investment portfolios of national and international financial institutions;

35. Encourage and provide incentives for educational institutions to adopt the "whole institution approach", including design, construction, operation,

26. Accelerate the institutionalization of education for sustainable development commitments at all levels contributing to good governance in overarching sustainable development processes;

27. Promote the empowerment of young people through education for sustainable development processes and encourage their creativity and leadership to become change agents for a sustainable future;

28. Encourage educational, environmental and other relevant authorities to take coordinated action by establishing partnerships among governmental agencies, civil society, the corporate sector and general, vocational and higher education institutions;

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34. Advocate for investment in education for sustainable development to be considered as an integral part of development financing. Foster provision of financial opportunities through supporting the incorporation of education for sustainable development into the investment portfolios of national and international financial institutions;

35. Encourage and provide incentives for educational institutions to adopt the "whole institution approach", including design, construction, operation,

management, curricula, governance and connections with communities; and further promote good practices in this regard, including through building on the "handprint" concept which encourages tangible and positive education for sustainable development actions;

36. Support accelerated reforms in pre- and in-service teacher education programmes to enhance teachers' competencies in education for sustainable development;

37. Ensure that education for sustainable development is an integral element of the post-2015 education and development agenda and the prospective sustainable development goals, setting tangible global and national targets, in line with ongoing United Nations processes, to ensure high-quality, relevant, lifelong learning for sustainable development for all, and, in this context, ensure that at the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, a substantial post-Decade framework is in place for education for sustainable development;

38. Undertake measures to strengthen the evidence-based research on education for sustainable development, both qualitative and quantitative, that addresses learning processes and driving forces for positive change for environmental, economic and social sustainability in various contexts and settings;

39. Expand globally the regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of education for sustainable development beyond 2014, after the end of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, in order to capture the lessons learned and capitalize on progress made and challenges encountered, following existing examples at the regional and national levels;

40. Include progress on the recommendations of the Tbilisi Communiqué through existing education for sustainable development reporting mechanisms, including on the Bonn Declaration, as appropriate.

We thank the organizers of Tbilisi+35, the Government of Georgia and its partners, UNESCO and UNEP.

We request the Government of Georgia to transmit this Communiqué to relevant United Nations forums.

United Nations A/67/529

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 129
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 41/213, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium. Accordingly, the budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015 is hereby submitted. It is recommended that the level of the contingency fund for 2014-2015 be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the overall budget level. The total preliminary estimate indicates a budget outline level of $5,341.0 million, which includes, for planning purposes, the deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rates in the biennium 2012-2013. It should be noted that this amount is subject to revision on the basis of decisions to be taken by the General Assembly during its consideration of those reports currently before it and foreseeable items yet to be issued for review by the Assembly, as reflected in section VI and annex II.

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I. Introduction

1. The outline for the biennium 2014-2015 is submitted in accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, pursuant to which the Secretary-General submits, in off-budget years, an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which should contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund, expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

II. Preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium

2. For the biennium 2014-2015, resources are included for the continued implementation of existing mandates in line with the eight priority areas set out in paragraph 41 of the plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Part I)), which is subject to approval by the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-seventh session. The eight priority areas remain the same as those approved for the current biennium, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/262. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, in paragraph 65 of its report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16), recommended that the Assembly approve the eight priority areas set out in the plan outline. The eight priority areas proposed for the work of the Organization that are to be considered by the Assembly are:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

3. In the establishment of a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2014-2015, the approved level of resources appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/248 A-C, amounting to $5,152.3 million, was taken as the starting point. The preliminary estimate has been arrived at as follows:

Table 1
Preliminary estimate for established activities, 2014-2015
(Millions of United States dollars)

Appropriation for 2012-2013[a]		5 152.3
Plus: full provision for new posts approved in 2012-2013 (see paras. 5-7)	15.7	
Less: one-time costs in 2012-2013 (see paras. 8 and 9)	(19.3)	
Less: proposed provisions for resource changes in the biennium 2014-2015 (see paras. 10-14)	(58.5)	
Subtotal — real growth compared with the appropriation for 2012-2013	**(62.1)**	
Deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rate (for planning purposes; see para. 15)[b]	220.6	
Overall changes for established activities		**158.5**
Subtotal		**5 310.8**
Additional provision required for special political missions at the current programme level		**30.2**
Total preliminary estimate for 2014-2015		**5 341.0**

[a] Reflects the initial appropriation approved pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/248 A-C.

[b] The deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rates has been included for planning purposes. Adjustments to the deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rates to reflect actual rates of inflation and exchange rates during 2012 to date, as well as revised projections, will be provided in the context of the forthcoming first performance report on the budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to be considered by the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-seventh session, as reflected in annex II.

4. Real growth for regular budget established activities compared with the appropriation for 2012-2013 reflects an estimated decrease of $62.1 million, or 1.5 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations of $4,069.3 million for regular budget established activities for the biennium 2012-2013. Preliminary estimates in respect of special political missions reflect an increase of $30.2 million, or 2.8 per cent.

A. Full provision for new posts approved in the biennium 2012-2013

5. In its resolution 59/278, the General Assembly endorsed the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/59/415) on the continuation of the practice of costing provisions for new posts at 50 per cent for the Professional and higher categories and 65 per cent for the General Service and related categories. Consequently, the requirements of $15.7 million provide for the biennial provision of 126 newly established posts (including through conversions from contractual services, general temporary assistance and extrabudgetary positions) that were approved pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/246 and 66/247.

6. The requirements of $15.7 million are broadly related to part VI, Human rights and humanitarian affairs, in connection with the strengthening of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ($2.1 million) and the United Nations human rights programme ($1.8 million). The additional requirements also pertain to part VIII, Common support services, in connection with the establishment of in-house capacity to provide core low-tier management and engineering maintenance services ($1.7 million); part IV, International cooperation for development, related to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ($1.3 million), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($0.2 million) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ($0.3 million); part VII, Public information, related to the strengthening of news and media services under the Department of Public Information ($1.3 million); and part III, International justice and law, related to the strengthening of the administration of justice system and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs ($0.8 million). The balance of the provision for delayed impact is distributed among the various other parts of the budget.

7. Table 2 reflects the distribution of delayed impact for the biennium 2014-2015, by budget part.

Table 2
Distribution of delayed impact by budget part
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Delayed impact of new posts by part of programme budget		*Number of newly established posts (including conversions)*	*Amount*
I.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	6	721.0
II.	Political affairs (not including special political missions)	6	590.3
III.	International justice and law	9	1 054.9
IV.	International cooperation for development	12	1 802.7
V.	Regional cooperation for development	4	778.9
VI.	Human rights and humanitarian affairs	28	4 374.1
VII.	Public information	14	1 267.2
VIII.	Common support services	27	1 967.8
IX.	Internal oversight	7	945.7
X.	Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	–	–
XI	Capital expenditures	–	–
XII.	Safety and security	13	450.0
XIII	Development Account	–	–
XIV	Staff assessment	–	1 714 8
Total		**126**	**15 667.4**

B. One-time costs in the biennium 2012-2013

8. One-time costs in the biennium 2012-2013 amounting to $19.3 million would not be required for the biennium 2014-2015. This amount was approved in the context of the consideration of the proposed programme budget and includes $7.5 million relating to: (a) resources for the implementation of the second phase of the standardized access control project (PACT II) at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Bangkok; (b) refurbishment of the headquarters complex in Islamabad and minor alteration of premises in the field stations of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; (c) requirements related to business continuity (including pandemic preparedness) in the United Nations Office at Nairobi; (d) provisions for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and (e) rental and maintenance of premises at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The total amount of one-time costs in 2012-2013 also includes $11.8 million in connection with the revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly after the proposed programme budget had been prepared, which also formed part of the initial appropriation. These were broadly related to the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions; requirements for minor alterations to premises, general temporary assistance, one-time costs relating to the administration of justice system, requirements for the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and strengthening of the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. For the purposes of the present report, all costs provided in 2012-2013 for special political missions have been treated as being of a recurrent nature, consistent with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the methodology reflect the recurrent nature of the provision (see A/60/7 and Corr.1, para. 40).

9. The distribution of one-time costs, by budget part, is reflected in table 3.

Table 3
Distribution of one-time costs in 2012-2013, by budget part

(Thousands of United States dollars)

One-time costs by part of programme budget	*Amount*
I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	(2 674.8)
II. Political affairs (not including special political missions)	(1 441.8)
III. International justice and law	(353.6)
IV. International cooperation for development	(476.5)
V. Regional cooperation for development	(512.9)
VI. Human rights and humanitarian affairs	(2 412.6)
VII. Public information	(8.0)
VIII. Common support services	(5 082.2)
IX. Internal oversight	(137.8)

One-time costs by part of programme budget	*Amount*
X Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	–
XI Capital expenditures	(5 056.6)
XII Safety and security	(46.9)
XIII Development Account	–
XIV Staff assessment	(1 059.2)
Total	**(19 262.9)**

C. Proposed provisions for resource changes in the biennium 2014-2015

10. As reflected in paragraph 2 above, resources are included for the continued implementation of existing mandates in line with the eight priority areas currently approved pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/262, and proposed for the biennium 2014-2015.

11. Furthermore, as reflected in paragraph 38 of the plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Part I)), currently under review by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has introduced new measures aimed at making the United Nations more transparent, effective and efficient. The continuous improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization remains a core priority of the Secretary-General.

12. In this connection, the provision reflects efforts being undertaken by the Organization to increase cost-effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services in the areas of programme support, conference management, public information and reprioritization of capital projects, while ensuring the effective implementation of mandated activities. Details regarding the efforts being undertaken and related proposals will be presented in the Secretary-General's reports on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for review and approval by the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-eighth session. Such proposals will include a review of programme outputs in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The estimated decrease in resources stemming from the above initiatives is $63.1 million.

13. A provision of $4.6 million is included for mandated conferences whose modalities are known to date, including for the preparation and conduct of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is held every five years; the conduct of a high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182; and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014 in line with General Assembly resolution 66/296.

14. Total net preliminary estimates for resource changes reflected above would result in an estimated decrease of $58.5 million. The preliminary estimates do not,

however, include provisions for those reports that are currently before the General Assembly and foreseeable items that have yet to be issued for review by the Assembly, which may have an impact on the budget outline. Those reports that are known to date are reflected in part VI and annex II.

D. Deferred post-related recosting for currency and inflation for the biennium 2012-2013

15. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 27 of its resolution 66/246, decided to defer consideration of post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rate projections to the first performance report on the budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The deferred amount of $220.6 million has been included in the preliminary estimate for planning purposes and on the basis of established practice. Further adjustments to reflect actual rates of inflation and exchange rates during 2012 to date, as well as revised projections, will be provided in the context of the forthcoming first performance report on the budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to be considered by the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-seventh session, as reflected in annex II.

E. Special political missions

16. In its resolution 63/266, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to include, in the proposed budget outline and in the proposed programme budget, provisions for special political missions related to peace and security that are expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium.

17. By its resolution 66/248 A, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $1,083.0 million for special political missions for the biennium 2012-2013. On the basis of the experience in the current biennium adjusted for new missions established in 2012, it is estimated that the full biennial provision in 2014-2015 for special political missions would amount to $1,113.2 million. The increase of $30.2 million over the appropriation of $1,083.0 million is related to a preliminary assumption regarding the continuation of new missions established in 2012 ($113.2 million). The provision also takes into account the estimated reductions in the resources for 29 missions from the $583.0 million approved in 2012 to $500.0 million, proposed in 2013. The proposed provision of $500.0 million in 2013 for the 29 missions is projected for each year in the biennium 2014-2015.

18. As special political missions may be approved at any time of the year, their timing and related resource requirements have been difficult to predict accurately. The preliminary estimate of $1,113.2 million may be subject to change if new missions are established in future.

F. Recosting

19. As reflected in paragraph 15 above, further adjustments to reflect actual rates of inflation and exchange rates during 2012 to date, as well as revised predictions, will be provided in the context of the forthcoming first performance report on the

budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to be considered by the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-seventh session.

20. The requirements set out in the present outline are subject to recosting to reflect, inter alia, changes owing to inflation and exchange rates for the biennium 2014-2015.

III. Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature

21. The proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 is based on the eight priority areas outlined in paragraph 2 above. **It is proposed that the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 also manifest those priorities.** The proposed distribution of resources by budget part is set out in annex I.

IV. Preliminary estimates for the biennium 2014-2015

22. **The preliminary estimate for regular budget established activities amounts to $4,227.8 million. The increase of $158.5 million over the approved appropriations of $4,069.3 million for the biennium 2012-2013 relates primarily to the inclusion of the deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rates for planning purposes. Real growth compared with the previous budget reflects an estimated decrease of $62.1 million, or 1.5 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations of $4,069.3 million for regular budget established activities for the biennium 2012-2013.**

23. **The preliminary estimate for special political missions amounts to $1,113.2 million. The increase of $30.2 million over the approved appropriations of $1,083.0 million for the biennium 2012-2013 relates to the continuation during the biennium 2014-2015 of missions newly established in 2012.**

24. **The total preliminary estimate for the biennium 2014-2015 amounts to $5,341.0 million. It should be emphasized that the preliminary estimate of $5,341.0 million includes the deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rates for planning purposes. This estimate will be affected by decisions to be taken by the General Assembly with respect to those reports currently before it and forthcoming reports, as reflected in annex II. These reports, when considered and if adopted by the Assembly, will have an impact on the level of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

V. Size of the contingency fund

25. The size of the contingency fund was set at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources for the first outline and all subsequent outlines. It is recommended that the level be maintained at 0.75 per cent, or $40.1 million, for the biennium 2014-2015.

VI. Additional information on initiatives currently before the General Assembly and those yet to be submitted

26. In its resolution 63/266, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to provide information on initiatives currently before the Assembly and foreseeable items yet to be issued that may impact the budget outline. Accordingly, annex II provides a detailed list of reports and the related preliminary estimates that are known to date. It should be emphasized that the preliminary estimates are subject to adjustments, as in some cases the reports are still under review by the Secretariat and have not yet been finalized. The reports, when considered and if adopted by the Assembly, will have an impact on the level of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

Annex I

Preliminary estimates for the biennium 2014-2015

(Millions of United States dollars)

Expenditures by part of programme budget	*2012-2013 appropriation*[a]	*Resource change*		*Total*
		Total changes	*Percentage*	
I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	721.8	40.2	5.6	762.0
II. Political affairs (not including special political missions)	250.8	9.4	3.7	260.2
III. International justice and law	93.2	3.2	3.4	96.4
IV. International cooperation for development	436.6	27.1	6.2	463.7
V. Regional cooperation for development	532.9	36.8	6.9	569.7
VI. Human rights and humanitarian affairs	326.6	21.7	6.6	348.3
VII. Public information	179.1	8.6	4.8	187.7
VIII. Common support services	600.2	20.9	3.5	621.1
IX. Internal oversight	38.3	2.5	6.5	40.8
X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	131.2	–	–	131.2
XI. Capital expenditures	64.9	(5.1)	(7.8)	59.8
XII. Safety and security	213.4	17.4	8.2	230.8
XIII. Development Account	29.2	–	–	29.2
XIV. Staff assessment	451.1	34.3	7.6	485.4
Subtotal, regular budget established activities[b]	**4 069.3**	**217.0**	**5.3**	**4 286.3**
Less: provisions for proposed resource changes[c]		**(58.5)**	**(1.4)**	**(58.5)**
Regular budget established activities, 2014-2015	**4 069.3**	**158.5**	**3.9**	**4 227.8**
Provision for special political missions	**1 083.0**	**30.2**	**2.8**	**1 113.2**
Total	**5 152.3**	**188.7**	**3.7**	**5 341.0**

[a] Includes the initial appropriation pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/248 A.

[b] Includes requirements for the delayed impact of posts established in 2012-2013 ($15.7 million), the amount of the deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rate pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/246 ($220.6 million) for planning purposes, and the removal of one-time costs ($19.3 million). Further adjustments to the deferred post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rates to reflect actual rates of inflation and exchange rates during 2012 to date, as well as revised projections, will be provided in the context of the forthcoming first performance report on the budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to be considered by the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-seventh session, as reflected in annex II.

[c] Includes requirements for mandated conferences whose modalities are known to date ($4.6 million) and estimated reductions for resource changes ($63.1 million).

Annex II

Programme budget outline for 2014-2015

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*	
Appropriations for 2012-2013[b]		5 152 299.6
Plus: delayed impact of post and non-post resources approved in 2010-2011	15 667.4	
Less: one-time costs in 2012-2013	(19 262.9)	
Plus: provision for new or expanded activities/events foreseen and/or mandated in 2014-2015	(58 528.4)	
Subtotal, real growth compared with the appropriation for 2012-2013	**(62 123.9)**	
Plus: deferred post-related resources for inflation and exchange rate (for planning purposes)	220 668.9	
Overall changes for established activities		158 545.0
Subtotal		**5 310 844.6**
Additional provision required for special political missions at the current programme level[c]	30 200.0	
Preliminary estimate for the biennium 2014-2015		**5 341 044.6**
First performance report (A/67/___*)[d]		
Additional appropriation		
(a) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	5 077.3	
(b) Decisions of policymaking organs	–	
(c) Revised estimates for currency, inflation, vacancy rate, and adjustments to standard costs	TBD	
Advisory Committee	TBD	
First performance report	5 077.3	
Not required for 2014-2015	TBD	
Total net first performance report		**TBD**
C. Revised estimates (reports to be considered at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly)[e]		
Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice at the United Nations (A/67/265 and Corr.1) (2012-2013)	1 793.9	
Advisory Committee	TBD	
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	–	
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	(1 793.9)	
Total, administration of justice	–	
Report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (A/67/349) (2012-2013)	–	
Advisory Committee	TBD	
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	264.3	

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	–
Total, United Nations Dispute Tribunal/United Nations Appeals Tribunal	**264.3**
Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational sessions and the substantive session of 2012 (A/67/503)	992.4
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	408.3
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	(992.4)
Total, Economic and Social Council	**408.3**
Report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first sessions (2012-2013)[d]	12 321.7
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	988.4
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	(12 321.7)
Total, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Human Rights Council	**988.4**
Report of the Secretary-General on the implications of the decisions and recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012-2013)	TBD
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	TBD
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	TBD
Total, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	**TBD**
Fourth progress report on the enterprise resource planning project (A/67/360) (2012-2013)	–
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	35 927.9
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	–
Total, enterprise resource planning project	**35 927.9**
Fifth progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (A/67/344) (2012-2013)	–
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	–
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	–
Total, International Public Sector Accounting Standards	**–**

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*
D. Financial implications emanating from Main Committees at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly[c]	
Statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure (2012-2013)[f]	–
Advisory Committee	–
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	4 680.0
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	–
Total, International Civil Service Commission	**4 680.0**
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the strengthening of the human rights treaty bodies (A/66/860), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/254 (2012-2013)	TBD
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	TBD
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	TBD
Total, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	**TBD**
Human Rights Committee related to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2012-2013)[g]	4 448.1
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	4 448.1
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	(4 448.1)
Total, Human Rights Committee	**4 448.1**
Implications of the decisions and recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on the United Nations Environment Programme (2012-2013)	TBD
Advisory Committee	TBD
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	TBD
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	TBD
Total, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, United Nations Environment Programme	**TBD**
Report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (A/67/262) (2012-2013)	–
Advisory Committee	N/A
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	235.9
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	–
Total, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States	**235.9**

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[c]	*Thousands of United States dollars*	
Committee on Migrant Workers (2012-2013)[d]		
Advisory Committee	TBD	
Delayed impact or requirements for 2014-2015	1 991.6	
One-time cost in 2012-2013 not required in 2014-2015	–	
Total, Committee on Migrant Workers	**1 991.6**	
E. Financial implications for conferences scheduled for 2014-2015 in which modalities will determine at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly (2012-2013)	TBD	
Comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action	TBD	
Preparatory work for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)	TBD	
Ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society	TBD	
Third international conference on small island developing States	TBD	
Total, special conferences	**TBD**	
F. Reports anticipated at the resumed part of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and the main party of the sixty-eighth session		
Strategic heritage plan	TBD	
After-service health insurance	TBD	
Implications for the proposed programme budget 2014-2015 stemming from the analysis of the functions of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women pursuant to resolution 65/259	TBD	
Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	TBD	
Total	**TBD**	
Preliminary estimates relating to revised estimates and programme budget implications which will affect the budget outline to be adopted		**48 944.5**

Abbreviations: N/A, not applicable; TBD, to be determined.

[a] Formulated on the basis of information available as at 19 October 2012 and subject to change.

[b] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolution 66/248 A-C).

[c] Reflects current mandates for 2012-2013, adjusted for the expected discontinuation of missions and biennial provisions for new missions in 2012-2013.

[d] Requirements based on estimates known as at 19 October 2012 and subject to further adjustments as reports are finalized.

[e] Decisions of the Fifth Committee not factored into details pending decisions.

[f] Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Commissions, requirements of $2.3 million will be considered in the context of the performance reports for 2012-2013.

United Nations A/67/529/Corr.1

General Assembly

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Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 129
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Replace the first part of the table in annex II with the following.

Programme budget outline for 2014-2015

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[a]		*Thousands of United States dollars*
Appropriations for 2012-2013[b]		5 152 299.6
Plus: delayed impact of post and non-post resources approved in 2012-2013	15 667.4	
Less: one-time costs in 2012-2013	(19 262.9)	
Less: proposed provision for resource changes in the biennium 2014-2015	(58 528.4)	
Subtotal, real growth compared with the appropriation for 2012-2013	**(62 123.9)**	
Plus: deferred post-related resources for inflation and exchange rate (for planning purposes)	220 668.9	
Overall changes for established activities		158 545.0
Subtotal		**5 310 844.6**
Additional provision required for special political missions at the current programme level[c]	30 200.0	
Preliminary estimate for the biennium 2014-2015		**5 341 044.6**

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Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*
First performance report (A/67/___*)[d]	
Additional appropriation	
(a) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	5 077.3
(b) Decisions of policymaking organs	–
(c) Revised estimates for currency, inflation, vacancy rate, and adjustments to standard costs	TBD
Advisory Committee	TBD
First performance report	TBD
Not required for 2014-2015	5 077.3
Total net first performance report	**TBD**

Abbreviations: N/A, not applicable; TBD, to be determined

[a] Formulated on the basis of information available as at 19 October 2012 and subject to change.

[b] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolution 66/248 A-C).

[c] Reflects current mandates for 2012-2013, adjusted for the expected discontinuation of missions and biennial provisions for new missions in 2012-2013.

[d] Requirements based on estimates known as at 19 October 2012 and subject to further adjustments as reports are finalized.

United Nations A/67/530

General Assembly

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Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 110 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 18 October 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the Gabonese Republic to the United Nations has the honour to enclose herewith the commitments and pledges of the Gabonese Republic, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

The Gabonese Republic is a candidate for membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2013-2015, the elections for which are to be held on 12 November 2012. This candidature has been endorsed by the African Union.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 18 October 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

[Original: French]

Candidature of Gabon to the Human Rights Council for the period 2013-2015

Voluntary pledges and commitments, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. The Gabonese Republic has always acted in accordance with international law in the promotion and protection of human rights.

2. Indeed, one of the goals pursued by the Congolese Government in this field is to establish the necessary conditions to uphold justice and respect the obligations arising from international treaties and other sources of international law.

3. The Gabonese Republic is once again submitting its candidature for the Human Rights Council in order to join the efforts of the international community to strengthen those rights. It therefore undertakes to engage, at the national level, in promoting and protecting the universal principles of human rights and to contribute to their effective application at the regional and international levels.

4. The Gabonese Republic was a member of the Human Rights Council from 2006 to 2008 and from 2009 to 2011. The positions it took within this body, when examining human rights violations, testify to its commitment to work continually to promote the ideals of peace, justice, equality and freedom, which are the very foundation of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. In 2011, the Gabonese Republic participated actively in Geneva and New York in the review of the Council's status and methods of work.

At the national level

6. The Gabonese Constitution guarantees respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. The following bodies have been established to ensure that the rights of citizens, including women, children and handicapped persons, are respected:

- National Human Rights Commission
- National Observatory on the Rights of the Child
- National Observatory for Women's Rights and Equality

8. In close cooperation with a number of countries and international organizations, Gabon has been consistently working to strengthen its national human rights promotion and protection system.

At the regional level

9. Gabon played a key role in the establishment of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which it had the honour of chairing.

10. Gabon has always offered its good offices in efforts to find solutions to the many conflicts plaguing Africa, which often cause political instability that could result in serious human rights violations.

At the international level

11. Gabon, which has been a Member of the United Nations since it became independent in 1960, is genuinely committed to promoting the goals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

12. Accordingly, Gabon has signed, ratified or acceded to the following major legal instruments:

- African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights
- Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

13. In June 2011, during its second presidency of the United Nations Security Council, the efforts of Gabon to protect vulnerable individuals led to the adoption, at its initiative, of resolution 1983 (2011).

14. Resolution 1983 (2011) is devoted in large part to the protection of women and girls against sexual violence during armed conflict and against their risk of HIV infection.

15. Within the United Nations General Assembly, Gabon likewise spearheaded an initiative in favour of the rights of widows and orphans, resulting in the adoption of resolution 65/189, which established International Widow's Day, to be observed on 23 June each year.

Gabon's pledge to the Human Rights Council

16. Gabon pledges to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council in all the areas that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, fall under the Council's purview.

17. In that regard, it pledges to engage in all the work of the Human Rights Council with a view to promoting and strengthening human rights protection mechanisms.

18. Gabon makes this pledge in the firm belief that the Human Rights Council serves as the pre-eminent democratic forum where Member States can, on the basis of mutual respect, undertake dialogue and consultations with a view to finding solutions to human rights issues.

19. Lastly, the Gabonese Republic pledges to implement the recommendations contained in the outcome of the second cycle of the universal periodic review.

United Nations A/67/531

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 110 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 14 August 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the singular honour and pleasure to inform you of the candidacy of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2013-2015 at the elections to be held in the General Assembly in November 2012.

Accordingly, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, I am submitting herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of Sierra Leone in pursuit of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, both nationally and internationally (see annex).

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to affirm that, if elected, my country will continue to contribute actively and tirelessly to discussions pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

(*Signed*) Shekou M. **Touray**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Voluntary pledges and commitments of Sierra Leone in support of its candidature for the Human Rights Council for the period 2013-2015

Sierra Leone gained independence in 1961, giving it the legal status, as an independent State, to enter into contractual relationships and make pledges for the promotion and protection of human rights. Since independence, human rights have been threatened at various times by coups and a civil war that lasted 11 years. Yet, ratifying key human rights instruments and making voluntary pledges that will enhance and/or establish a culture of promoting and protecting human rights have always been to the fore.

General policy on human rights

The Constitution of the State guarantees the basic human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To demonstrate its abhorrence for violations of fundamental human rights principles, Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the United Nations, established the hybrid Special Court for Sierra Leone for the prosecution of perpetrators of gross human rights violations, defined in article 1 of the Statute of the Court as persons who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations under international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law.

Sierra Leone believes in the rule of law and has therefore ensured that its people enjoy protection and are guaranteed fundamental human rights, as demonstrated by the enactment of Act No. 6 of the 1991 Constitution. Sierra Leone continues to respect all its obligations under the various international human rights instruments.[1]

International contributions, pledges and commitments

As part of its commitment to human rights values and the rule of law, Sierra Leone has ratified core United Nations human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its first Optional Protocol, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities without reservations, declarations, derogations, restrictions or limitations.

Sierra Leone is also a signatory and/or a party to regional human rights instruments, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its protocols, such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Protocol on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

[1] Since ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, no Parliamentary action has been taken; first report was submitted in June 2012.

(signed but not yet ratified), the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights (signed but not yet ratified) and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (also to be ratified).

The State is also a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and other international human rights treaties and conventions relating to international humanitarian law, conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and conventions of the International Labour Organization. Sierra Leone is also signatory to a good number of international human rights instruments, which it is committed to ratifying as soon as possible.

It is also worth mentioning that Sierra Leone was a member of the former Commission on Human Rights, and that it successfully completed and submitted its first universal periodic review to the Human Rights Council in 2011, on which an outcome report was adopted by the Council. These are all major achievements in the field of human rights.

It is against this background that Sierra Leone undertakes to promote and protect human rights at all levels (national, international, regional and subregional) by:

- Maintaining its integrity and commitment in the fulfilment of all obligations relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Supporting the United Nations in its trend towards mainstreaming human rights as a mechanism for development.
- Reciprocating constructive developments by its peers in the furtherance of promotion and protection of human rights.
- Ensuring cooperation by way of extending an open invitation to all special procedure mandate holders for visits, communications and follow-up recommendations.
- Continuing to fulfil its obligations under treaty bodies by submitting reports to treaty bodies and cooperating with them.
- Contributing to international initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights through the provision of human and technical resources.
- Maintaining maximum collaboration and cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Abiding by the principles of the United Nations (universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity) in its contributions to the deliberations in international human rights forums.
- Assuring the Human Rights Council of its full support by committing to engage constructively in all its deliberations, including those of its subsidiary bodies, mechanisms and special procedures.
- Affirming commitment to the universal periodic review process by ensuring that accepted recommendations are implemented.
- Committing to transparency and the meaningful engagement of non-governmental organizations in the Council.

National contribution, pledges and commitments

- Sierra Leone will continue to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights guaranteed in its Constitution. In that regard, work is currently in progress to produce and institutionalize a national human rights action plan. A national Human Rights Commission has been established and it has acquired an "A" status accreditation from the International Criminal Court based on the commitment to prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations in the courts of Sierra Leone or the national Human Rights Commission by virtue of its statutory powers.

- Recognizing that the numerical strength of female representation in governance is poor, the Government, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), is committed to enacting legislation to provide for a 30 per cent quota for female representation.

- In its bid to mainstream human rights into all its policies, plans and programmes, Sierra Leone is currently implementing the Free Health Care Initiative launched in April 2007 for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under the age of 5, which is yielding the desired dividends.

- Notwithstanding the continued efforts to strengthen the justice sector with support from development partners, justice still remains widely inaccessible. Sierra Leone remains, however, committed to ensuring a better and more encompassing legal aid scheme, prompt and fair trials, review of juvenile delinquency and the codification of customary laws, with a view to making justice accessible to all.

- Sierra Leone continues to ensure adherence to all treaty obligations and guarantees the protection envisaged by the treaties through implementation and reporting.

- Cooperation and partnership with civil society organizations and the national Human Rights Commission has been strengthened in the area of protection and promotion of human rights.

- In addition to the Constitutional provision (Act No. 6, sect. 27), several enactments[2] have been made to protect against and prevent discrimination in all its forms and manifestations.

In spite of the many challenges, Sierra Leone reaffirms its commitment to respect both its international and its national obligations to protect and promote human rights and, accordingly, pledges to uphold the high standards already set by its laws and to introduce reforms in the law as and when necessary for the purpose of attaining the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.

[2] For example, the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act, 2007, the Devolution of Estate Act, 2007, the Domestic Violence Act, 2007, and the Child Rights Act, 2007.

United Nations A/67/532

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 110 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 18 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

It is my honour to inform you that the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2013-2015 for the seats allocated to the African States at the elections to be held in November 2012.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has the honour to transmit its statement of voluntary pledges and commitments for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Tekeda **Alemu**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Ethiopia to the Human Rights Council, 2013-2015

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Ethiopia, a founding member of the United Nations, is now for the first time a candidate for membership in the Human Rights Council, for the period 2013-2015. Its candidature has been endorsed by the African Union.

2. Ethiopia firmly believes in the universality, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and all other international human rights instruments.

3. Ethiopia upholds the highest standards of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the country and in the international and regional human rights treaties that Ethiopia has ratified. It is a party to major international treaties and the core international human rights instruments.

4. Ethiopia attaches great importance to the principles of equality, non-discrimination, mutual respect and tolerance and active grass-roots participation. In an effort to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights, Ethiopia has undertaken extensive administrative, policy and legislative reforms, with a view to ensuring that its laws, policies and practices conform to international human rights standards.

5. Ethiopia has been playing an active role in the promotion of regional and international peace and security as well as in the strengthening of the rule of law and good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national level.

6. Ethiopia has contributed to international peacekeeping for more than 50 years. Currently, Ethiopia is contributing the greatest number of troops of any country in Africa to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

7. Ethiopia reaffirms its strong support for the work of the United Nations human rights system and continues to actively participate in all its activities in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

8. Ethiopia has made important contributions to the establishment and strengthening of the Human Rights Council.

9. Ethiopia was a member of the Commission on Human Rights during the periods 1980-1982, 1986-1991, 1995-1997 and 2004-2006 and constructively contributed during its tenure to the advancement of the work of the United Nations human rights system.

10. It is in this context that Ethiopia voluntarily makes the pledges and commitments, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, listed below.

International contributions, pledges and commitments

11. Consistent with its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, Ethiopia is a party to the following core regional and international human rights instruments:

- International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- International Convention against Apartheid in Sports
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

12. Ethiopia is also a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the first two additional protocols thereto, to other international humanitarian law instruments and to international instruments administered by the International Labour Organization.

13. The Government of Ethiopia pledges to take the necessary measures to expedite the ratification of the following human rights treaties:

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

14. Ethiopia is fully committed to the innovative initiative of the universal periodic review within the Human Rights Council. Accordingly, Ethiopia submitted its national report to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in 2009 following extensive national consultations with all stakeholders. Ethiopia has taken steps to disseminate the results of the review and has undertaken national consultations on the implementation of the recommendations, including through the drawing up of a national human rights action plan that was elaborated by a national

consultative process with the active participation of the national Human Rights Commission of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is expected to be reviewed in 2014.

15. Ethiopia is committed to an open and constructive engagement in the robust universal periodic review procedure, including reporting on measures taken to follow up on its recommendations. Ethiopia will continue to work with all members of the Human Rights Council in an open and constructive dialogue and endeavour to implement recommendations.

16. Ethiopia has been reviewed by the African Peer Review Mechanism and has adopted an implementation plan for its recommendations.

17. Ethiopia supports the system of special procedures of the United Nations human rights system and is committed to cooperating with the respective special mechanisms. Ethiopia has received visits from the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Accordingly, on the invitation of the Government of Ethiopia, the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on prisons and conditions of detention in Africa have visited the country.

18. In 2012, the Chairs of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies met in Addis Ababa, their first meeting outside of Geneva. In the course of their stay in Addis Ababa they consulted with senior officials of the Government of Ethiopia on ways to further enhance their constructive engagement and on measures taken by the Government of Ethiopia on the implementation of various human rights treaties.

19. Ethiopia is committed to continuing its cooperation with the reporting and monitoring system of the treaty bodies of the United Nations. Ethiopia has submitted its reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and has participated actively and constructively during the discussions of the reports.

20. Ethiopia adheres to its reporting obligations to implement the recommendations of treaty bodies. As an integral part of the country's commitment to implement relevant recommendations and concluding observations by national, regional and international human rights bodies, Ethiopia commits to incorporating the implementation of those recommendations into its national human rights action plan. Moreover, Ethiopia has established a national steering committee, consisting of federal ministries and regional bureaux, other relevant Government offices, national human rights institutions and civil society groups, to prepare the action plan. The steering committee has finalized the preparation of the action plan.

21. Ethiopia has always been a strong supporter of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Ethiopia is closely working and collaborating with the East Africa Regional Office of OHCHR in Addis Ababa on wide-ranging issues of human rights. Ethiopia commits to further collaboration with OHCHR to enhance its cooperation with and assistance to the Office by further improving the existing working environment to discharge its mandate.

22. Ethiopia is an active participant in the meetings of the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Ethiopia commits to further enhancing its active participation, including by submitting proposals and organizing events aimed at promoting fundamental human rights and freedoms. Ethiopia participates and plays an active role in the process of setting the standards of human rights instruments of the African Union and the United Nations.

23. Ethiopia believes that non-governmental organizations can play a vital role in the promotion and protection of human rights. Ethiopia commits to meaningful engagement with non-governmental organizations in the preparation of national reports and during sessions of the Human Rights Council.

National contributions, pledges and commitments

24. Ethiopia is strongly committed to the full and free exercise of peoples' rights to self-determination and to building a political community founded on the rule of law and capable of ensuring lasting peace, guaranteeing a democratic order and advancing the country's economic and social development. The Government of Ethiopia is also firmly convinced that the country's sustained development and growth and continued maintenance of peace and security are firmly grounded on the full respect for individual and peoples' fundamental freedoms and rights.

25. As part of the country's commitment to advance human rights, Ethiopia has established the national Human Rights Commission and the Institution of the Ombudsman, both accountable to the Parliament.

26. Ethiopia is implementing a five-year growth and transformation plan (2010/11-2014/15) to lift the country out of poverty, achieve the Millennium Development Goals, ensure rapid, sustainable and equitable economic growth, build capacity, deepen good governance, promote gender and youth empowerment and equity and enhance the expansion and quality of social development, among other goals.

27. Ethiopia reaffirms its commitment to the full realization of all rights enshrined under international and regional human rights instruments. The Constitution of Ethiopia guarantees equality of all persons before the law and their entitlement without any discrimination to equal protection by the law. The Constitution obliges all laws of the country to guarantee all persons equal and effective protection without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, wealth, birth or other status. Any law or practice that contravenes that Constitutional provision is null and void.

28. Basic human rights instruments ratified by Ethiopia are parts of the laws of the country. Any laws, practices or decisions inconsistent with or that contravene those instruments are null and void. Ethiopia has registered remarkable progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, with special emphasis on women, children and marginalized groups and communities. The policies and strategies of the country are carefully crafted to align with the country's national and international human rights obligations. Ethiopia is committed to upholding the highest standard of human rights.